

PCT

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference INT.1070/DD	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/ZA 03/00003	International filing date (day/month/year) 08.01.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 08.01.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B07B1/46		
Applicant RCM PLASTICS CC et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 08.08.2003	Date of completion of this report 13.01.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Voutsadopoulos, K Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2922



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International application No. PCT/ZA 03/00003

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-49 received on 17.12.2003 with letter of 03.12.2003

Drawings, Sheets

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-49
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-49
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-49
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-5 372 261 (Z. GALTON) 13 December 1994 (1994-12-13)
D2: EP-A-0 296 273 (HEIN LEHMANN) 28 December 1988 (1988-12-28)

I. Basis of the opinion.

There is no difference in category of the claim or in subject-matter between the independent claims 38 for a method and 45 for a process.

Moreover, claim 45 comprises all the features of claim 38 and is therefore not appropriately formulated as a claim dependent on the latter (Rule 6.4 PCT).

The following reasoned statement is issued on the assumption that this deficiency is corrected by amendments.

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii).

1. Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (cf. column 11, line 36 to line 48; figure 13) a screening element from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that it comprises a plurality of spacers integrally formed on the reinforcing frame 14 and at least partially embedded in the body 12 of the screening element. These integral spacers negate the need for separate spacers in order to locate the reinforcing frame 14 in a dieset when moulding or casting body 12 around the reinforcing frame 14. The problem to be solved by the present invention could therefore be regarded as to provide a screening element, which is easier to manufacture. The solution to the above technical problem comprising the features of claim 1 is not fairly suggested in the available prior art. Accordingly, claim 1 meets the requirements of Art. 33(2) and 33(3) PCT.
2. Independent claims 36 for a system, 38 for a method and 45 for a process all comprise the above mentioned features of the plurality of integrally formed spacers. Thus, these claims too meet the requirements of Art. 33(2) and 33(3) PCT.
2. Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10-41, 43-50, 52 and 53 are dependent on one of claims 1,

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36, 38 or 45 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.